

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 FEA-02 EB-11 TRSE-00

COME-00 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 210140Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1258

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

1. DURING THREE-DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE SHAH AND SHAHBANOU RECEIVED LAVISH RED-CARPET TREATMENT AND EXTRAVAGANT COVERAGE BY LOCAL PRESS, INCLUDING BANNER HEADLINES AND MULTI-PAGE PHOTO SPREADS. FULL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDED VISIT TO PORT AND JURONG INDUSTRIAL SATELLITE TOWN. AT JURONG. THE SHAH NOTED "YOUR ADVANTAGE IS A DISCIPLINED LABOR FORCE. IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, PEOPLE DO NOT WORK HARD, BUT DEMAND HIGHER WAGES." SHAH REPORTEDLY MENTIONED AUSTRALIA AS A COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PEOPLE WERE NOT WORKING VERY HARD.

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2. AT STATE BANQUET, PRESIDENT SHEARS SAID SINGAPORE

SHARED SHAH'S VIEW THAT INDIAN OCEAN" SHOULD REMAIN FREE AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL NATIONS, THAT IT SHOULD BE AN AREA OF STABILITY FREE OF RESTRICTIONS AND BARRIERS." PRESIDENT NOTED THAT "A PROSPEROUS, DYNAMIC AND OUTWARD-LOOKING IRAN WILL BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND A FACTOR FOR STABILITY IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE GULF AND OF THE INDIAN OCEAN." IN HIS REPLY, SHAH STRESSED NECESSITY OF GUARANTEEING SECURITY OF THE GULF AND THE INDIAN OCEAN IN ORDER TO GUARD THE ESSENTIAL OIL-SUPPLY ROUTE FROM IRAN TO EAST ASIA. HE STATED THERE WAS NEED FOR SOME KIND OF REGIONAL COOPERATION WHICH WOULD BRING TOGETHER COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN, INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, BURMA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA. THESE COUNTRIES HAD SAME INTERESTS---SECURITY IN REGION, FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND TRADE NOT ONLY BETWEEN THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

3. AS IF TO UNDERLINE IRAN'S INTEREST IN GUARDING SECURITY OF INDIAN OCEAN AREA, TWO IRANIAN GUIDED-MISSILE DESTROYERS STEAMED INTO PORT FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT THE DAY BEFORE SHAH'S ARRIVAL. ACCORDING TO COMMANDING OFFICER, TIMING WAS A COINCIDENCE. SHIPS ARE EN ROUTE TO INDIA.

4. PRESS REPORTED ONLY COURTESY CALLS BY PRIME MINISTER LEE ON SHAH AND BY SHAH ON PRESIDENT SHEARES. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY ACCOUNT OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS BETWEEN SHAH AND LEE. HOWEVER, FROM NATURE OF SHAH'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT ON THESE SUBJECTS.
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